whether it is a fact that our Indian labour lacks competitiveness in world market;

what are the initiatives to upgrade the deficiencies; and

whether, despite this deficiency, Indian labour is said to be still preferred; if so, what is the background for such preference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) On the basis of information published in World Competitiveness Year Book 2007 by Institute of Management and Development, Lausanne, Switzerland, the labour productivity measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (Purchasing Power Parity) per Person Employed per Hour in India during 2006 has been worked out to be US$ 4.16, which is lower than Singapore (US$ 25.92), Japan (US$ 31.10), China-Mainland (US$ 6.02) and Republic of Korea (US$ 19.78).

(b) to (d) As per the information furnished by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Indian workers are in great demand in some of the developed as well as developing countries. Every year about 6-7 lakh workers travel to various countries seeking job opportunities. Countries in the Middle East and South East Asia offer tremendous opportunities for the Indian skilled workers. The major trades in demand include electricians, plumbers, carpenters, drivers, welders, fitters, machine operators coming from China and other countries.

In order to address the issue, during 2006-07 the Central Government in consultation with State Governments launched a new scheme for skill upgradation and pre-departure orientation of the prospective emigrants. The training includes familiarization with the good working practices, safety norms and use of tools. The trainees are also given exposure on personality needs and how they should conduct themselves while they are working in the overseas establishments. This will help skilled workers in sharpening of their skills in tune with emerging market needs.

Eradicating child labour through social security to unorganized sector

2136. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

whether Government is seriously considering about eradicating child labour and has initiated steps for social security for workers in the unorganized sector;

whether Government is also committed its decision on eradicating child labour at the conference in Geneva held recently;

whether Government is also considering to introduce a Bill for social security of workers in the unorganized sector;

if so, by what time this legislation is likely to be introduced; and

the steps taken to eradicate child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is committed to elimination of child labour and Government's commitment is reiterated whenever the child labour issue is discussed in ILO conferences at Geneva and elsewhere.

(c) and (d) With a view to providing social security to unorganised sector workers, the Unorganised Sector Worker's Social Security Bill, 2007 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 10.09.2007.

(e) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government is following a sequential approach of first covering children working in hazardous occupations/ processes. For the elimination of child labour, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of the country. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from hazardous work are put into Special Schools, where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc., before they are mainstreamed into regular education system. State Governments are the appropriate Government for implementation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 for the areas coming under their jurisdiction.

Revised Integrated Housing Scheme for Beedi workers in Kerala

2137. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

whether Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS) 2005 had been formulated for Beedi workers and others;

if so, the details through including the number of applicants, number of applications approved, grant sought and granted under the above scheme for the last two years, year-wise, State-wise, and category-wise;

if so, the action taken if any, in detail, on the request submitted by competent authority of Kerala during October, 2007 under the above scheme; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

A Statement containing details is enclosed. *(See* below)

and (d) A total number of 2049 applications for construction of houses by individual beedi workers were received through the Government of Kerala under the Revised Integrated Housing Scheme-2007 for beedi workers, etc. Out of 2049 applications, 1422 houses involving a total subsidy amount of Rs. 5.69 crore have been granted administrative approval. The remaining applications are under examination.

Statement

State-wise details of Houses sanctioned for construction of houses by the Beedi workers under revised integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS) 2005 *during* 2005-06 *&* 2006-07.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Houses Sanctioned 2005-06	No. of Houses Sanctioned 2006-07
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9595	11485
2.	Assam	Nil	91